

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A filter material (9; 18; 24) consisting of two stacked grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) characterized in that the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) have a weld joint (23) between them.

Claim 2 (original): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to claim 1, characterized in that the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) are unmilled.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) have structural elevations (20; 21A; 22A) and depressions and are bonded together in the region of their contact points (20; 21A; 22A).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) has more than one weld joint (23) per 0.5 square cm.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) has more than 5 weld joints (23), preferably more than 20 weld joints (23), per 1.0 square cm.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 5~~, claim 1 characterized in that at least one grid member has between 5 or 10 and 1500 or 1200 yarns per cm.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stacked grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) have differing structures.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) is finer than another grid member (1; 2; 30, 31).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) has openings of more than 5 mm in diameter, preferably of more than 20 mm in diameter.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) has openings of 5.0 mm or less, preferably of less than 2.0 mm in diameter.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) is a fabric (30).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) is an expanded metal (31).

Claim 13 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 12~~ claim 1, characterized in that a grid member (1; 2; 30, 31) with a coarser structure is disposed between two grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) having a finer structure.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 13~~ claim 1, characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) is comprised of more than two stacked grid members (1; 2; 30, 31).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stacked grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) are made from different materials.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 15~~ claim 1, characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) comprises a weld flange (16).

Claim 17 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 16~~ claim 1, characterized in that spacers (27) are disposed between two grid members (1; 2; 30, 31).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 17~~ claim 1, characterized in that the spacers (27) are welded to the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31).

Claim 19 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 18~~ claim 1, characterized in that a filter material (9; 18; 24) is comprised of two grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) with a fine structure that are each welded to grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) having a coarser

structure and that spacers (27) are disposed between the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) having the coarser structures.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 19~~ claim 1, characterized in that, in the border regions (29A, 29B), the filter material (9; 18; 24) is comprised of a sheet metal strip (34, 35) in the direction of its longitudinal axis.

Claim 21 (original): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to claim 20, characterized in that the sheet metal strip (34, 35) is less than 100 mm, preferably less than 20 mm, wide.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 20 or 21~~ claim 20, characterized in that the sheet metal strip (34, 35) projects at least partially beyond at least one grid member (1; 2; 30, 31).

Claim 23 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 20 through 22~~ claim 20, characterized in that two sheet metal strips (34, 35) are welded together.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 23~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) comprises a frame.

Claim 25 (original): The filter material (9; 18; 24) according to claim 24, **characterized in that the frame is at least partially disposed between two grid members (1; 2; 30, 31).**

Claim 26 (currently amended): A filter body, **characterized in that the filter body comprises a filter material (9; 18; 24) according to ~~one of the claims 1 through 24~~ claim 1.**

Claim 27 (original): The filter body according to claim 26, **characterized in that the filter body is a filter frame, a filter plate, a filter with a U-shaped profile, a filter ring or a filter cylinder (33).**

Claim 28 (original): A method of manufacturing a filter material (9; 18; 24) consisting of several grid members (1; 2; 30, 31), **characterized in that the method comprises welding the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) together.**

Claim 29 (original): The method according to claim 28, **characterized in that the method comprises welding the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) together to form a continuous length of material.**

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method according to claim 28 ~~or 29~~, characterized in that the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) are pressed together at a pressure in excess of 30 bar, preferably in excess of 50 bar, during the welding process.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method according to ~~one of the claims 28 through 30~~ claim 28, characterized in that the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) are welded with a weld impulse of less than 10 milliseconds or of less than 5 milliseconds, preferably of about 2 milliseconds.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method according to ~~one of the claims 28 through 31~~ claim 28, characterized in that, for welding, the grid members (1; 2; 30, 31) are pressed against each other using at least one welding die.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method according to ~~one of the claims 28 through 32~~, claim 28 characterized in that the filter material (9; 18; 24) is provided with sheet metal elements and that the sheet metal elements are welded together so that the filter material (9; 18; 24) yields a cylindrical filter body.